

From: [Fells, Sandy](#)
To: [R8 SLT](#)
Cc: [Kellen, Karen](#)
Subject: FYI -- E & E PM Edition 4/1/14: BUDGET: Ryan plan "would maul the federal workforce with a new ferocity" -- union
Date: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 2:35:19 PM

FYI -- From this afternoon's Environment & Energy PM Edition . . .

BUDGET: Ryan plan 'would maul the federal workforce with a new ferocity' -- union

Robin Bravender, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, April 1, 2014

The head of the largest federal employee union today strongly condemned House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan's (R-Wis.) proposed fiscal framework.

"What's another term for an insatiable monster hell-bent on savagely devouring everything in its sight? The Ryan Budget," American Federation of Government Employees National President J. David Cox said today in a statement following the release of Ryan's spending blueprint earlier today.

"Each year this monster gets hungrier, bolder, and more pitiless against its prey," Cox said. He added, "The 2015 edition of the Ryan Budget would maul the federal workforce with a new ferocity."

The fiscal 2015 plan is packed with GOP political priorities, including many proposals Ryan has outlined in the past that seek to trim spending in part by targeting federal worker benefits.

Ryan's plan calls for federal employees -- including members of Congress and their staffs -- to make higher contributions toward their retirement. It would also change workers' ability to receive a special retirement supplement that pays them the equivalent of their Social Security benefit at an early age.

"This would achieve significant budgetary savings and also help facilitate a transition to a defined contribution system for new federal employees that would give them more control over their own retirement security," the Ryan plan says. "This option would save an estimated \$125 billion over ten years."

Colleen Kelley, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, also slammed the plan today.

"This budget piles even more burdens on the federal workforce. Employees are already juggling higher workloads with fewer resources and shrinking compensation," she said in a statement. "Congress needs to reject this budget, restore desperately-needed funding to federal agencies and stop the attacks on federal employees."

The outline also includes savings by assuming a reduction in the federal workforce through attrition, where the administration would be permitted to hire one employee for every three who leave government service. National security positions would be subject to exemption. And Ryan's budget assumes savings by eliminating repayment by the government of federal workers' student loans.

Ryan has touted the reforms as necessary to balance the budget and boost job creation. "We can't keep spending money we don't have," he said today in a statement. "As the House majority, we have a responsibility to lay out a long-term vision for the country, and this budget shows how we will solve our nation's biggest challenges."

Sandy Fells
Regional Congressional Liaison
EPA, Region 8, Denver
303-312-6604